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Council of State Commissioners and Regulators
To Assist FCC's Diversity Committee
Daryl Bassett to Chair Council

Washington, D.C. - The FCC's Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age has asked a group of state commissioners and communications regulators to assist the Committee in its work. The Diversity Committee's mission is to determine how to ensure that a broad cross-section of the public has the opportunity to own or manage communications and communications-related companies. The Council of state commissioners and regulators will help the Committee execute its mandate by encouraging state-federal cooperation to better promote the shared goal of diversity in communications.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell applauded the partnership, stating that, "This is yet another example of the Diversity Committee's dedication to pursue every path to a comprehensive and coordinated analysis of the means that can be used to promote diversity in the communications industry."

The Council will assist the Committee by developing joint federal-state initiatives, by promoting awareness of both the mission and the work of the Diversity Committee throughout the nation, and by expanding the Committee's work on industry best-practices.

Daryl Bassett of the Arkansas Public Service Commission will Chair the Council. Commissioner Bassett was appointed to the Arkansas Public Service Commission in 2003. He is a graduate of Harding University, Searcy, Arkansas. He has held numerous leadership positions in Arkansas state government, including serving as State Budget Director in 2002-2003, and, in prior years, as the Governor's policy advisor for state economic development, higher education, employment security, and rehabilitation services.

Diversity Committee Chair Julia Johnson stated that, "The Council will help state and federal regulators share information and ideas as we all strive to achieve the goal of a vibrant, diverse communications industry. I am particularly excited that Mr. Bassett has agreed to be a part of this effort. His leadership, expertise, insight, and experience will be a great asset to the Council and will be instrumental to the Diversity Committee as it completes its work."

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